

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-04 TRSE-00 /062 W

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R 090640Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 602

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 723

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MU, TC, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI AND UAE FINANCIAL GRANTS TO OMAN GOVT

REF: MUSCAT 701 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURSE OF NOVEMBER 6 CONVERSATION WITH ECON ADVISER JOHN TOWNSEND, EMBOFFS ASKED HIM ABOUT STATUS OF FINANCIAL AID FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE. TOWNSEND DISCOUNTED RUMORS OF LARGE-SCALE GRANTS, E.G., SAYING THAT AMOUNT FROM SAUDI ARABIA MUCH LESS THAN BELIEVED AND VERY SLOW IN ARRIVING.

2. ON QUESTION OF UAE, TOWNSEND PORTRAYED ASSISTANCE AS SOMETHING OF A SLEIGHT-OF-HAND OPERATION; THREE OMANI LEADERS HAD GONE SEPARATELY TO SHEIKH ZAYID, AND EACH HAD COME AWAY ANNOUNCING THAT SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY HAD BEEN PROMISED FOR PET PROJECTS. IN FACT, TOWNSEND BELIEVES THAT ZAYID HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ONE GRANT, NOT THREE; THAT FUNDS ARE NOT EARMARKED FOR ANY PARTICULAR USE; AND THAT NOT MUCH MONEY HAS REACHED OMANI COFFERS.

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3. COMMENT: TOWNSEND SHOULD KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT. ALTHOUGH HE GENERALLY LEVELS WITH US, HE CAN BE DISINGENUOUS WHEN IT SERVES HIS PURPOSE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT HE IS UNDERPLAYING SAUDI ASSISTANCE (EMBASSY'S A-17 OF APRIL 16, 1974) AND SAME MAY BE TRUE REGARDING THAT FROM UAE.
WOLLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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